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REMARKS

Claims 1-26, 28-69, and 73-93 were pending and stand rejected. Claims 13, 38, 45, 48, and 76 have been canceled. Claims 1, 26, 46, 47, 49, 77-80, and 92 have been amended. New claim 94 has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 51 was objected to because the clean version of the amended claims inadvertently included the marked up version of claim 51. This error has been corrected in the currently submitted claims.

Claim 92 was rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. By way of this amendment, the number "451" has been deleted from claim 92. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-8, 10-17, 20-26, 28-33, 35-44, 48, 49, 55-69, 73-75, 79, 80, and 84-93 were rejected either under 35 USC §102(a) and 35 USC §102(e) or under 35 USC §103(a). Claims 9, 18, 19, 34, 45-47, 50-54, 76-78, and 81-83 were objected to but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant submits that the currently pending claims are allowable for at least the reasons set forth in the Office Action. Specifically, independent claims 1 and 26 have been amended to claim that the second layer is composed of a plurality of yarns having at least a bicomponent structure of at least a first component and a second component, the first component being stable to a first temperature, and the second component melting at a second temperature, wherein the first temperature is higher than the second temperature and wherein the second component has been heated and melted to form the waterproof seam. Moreover, new claim 94 corresponds to previously pending claim 1, including the subject matter of claim 9. This claimed subject matter has been indicated as being allowable by the Examiner.

Applicant submits that the amendments, as discussed above, place the current application into condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests prompt issuance of a notice of allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to telephone applicant's undersigned representative.

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Respectfully submitted,

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